

AFTERMATH OF THE WAR

conference, and on January 10 Finance Minister Hazkir announced to the cheering Majlis that the government had rejected the British suggestion. Premier Hakimi confirmed the statement a few days later.

On January 19, 1946, the Iranian delegate to the newly formed United Nations, Seyyid Hasan Taqi-zadeh, formally requested the Security Council to investigate Soviet encroachments in Iran. The Iranian government accused the Soviet Union of interference in the internal affairs of Iran "through the medium of their officials and armed forces" and declared itself ready to furnish "a fall statement of the facts" to substantiate its charges.¹⁰

After an acrimonious debate, during which the Soviet delegation denied Iranian charges but admitted having prevented the Iranian army from entering Azerbaijan, the Council on January 30 decided to refer the matter to direct negotiations between Russia and Iran and to request the parties "to inform the Council of any results achieved in such negotiations."

The result of the Council's debate was to some degree disappointing to the Iranians since they were again left to their own devices. The only gain from their point of view, was that Soviet infiltration was now given world publicity and that the United Nations reserved for itself the right to request from the parties information on the progress of Soviet-Iranian talks.

In the meantime a cabinet crisis occurred in Iran. It was largely due to new Soviet pressure expressed by the severance of all trade between Azerbaijan and the rest of the country. The economic strain thus created was intolerable. Despairing of his ability to settle the quarrel with the Russians and yielding to persuasion,

Premier Ha-
kimi resigned on January 22 and the Shah asked
Qavam Saltaneh,
known for his flirtation with the Tudeh, to form a
new cabinet.
Qavam, appointed Prime Minister on January 27,
began his official
duties by dismissing General Ibrahim Arfa, who was
of pro-British
tendencies, from the post of Chief of Staff of the Army.
Arfa was re-
placed by General Aghevli, an officer interned during
the war because
of his pro-German sympathies. This was interpreted as
a desire on the
part of Qavam to make the high personnel of his
administration more

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